



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced to LWOP for Two Killings at Separate House Parties

A 21-year-old man was sentenced today to life in prison without the possibility of parole for killing two men at house parties in Pacoima and South Los Angeles over two years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

A jury in January found Jesse Alexander Cardoza of Arleta guilty of one count each of first-degree murder and second-degree murder.

The jury in case TA141624 also found true a special circumstance allegation of multiple murders and the special allegation of personally using a knife.

Co-defendants Brandon Corona, 20, of North Hills and Angel Andres Quezada, 20, of Los Angeles both pleaded no contest on Oct. 16, 2018, to one count of assault with a deadly weapon. On Nov. 8, 2018, Corona was sentenced to six years in state prison and Quezada received an eight-year state prison sentence.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys Osman Abbasi and Drew Josfan.

After a house party in South Los Angeles on Sept. 24, 2016, Cardoza and a minor confronted and attacked victim Martin Kennedy, 18. During the confrontation, Cardoza stabbed Kennedy on the back of the head and in the back, killing him, the prosecutors said.

On Oct. 29, 2016, as a house party in Pacoima was closing down, Cardoza stabbed victim Victor Garcia, 22, to death. Garcia was trying to help people disperse and diffuse tensions among other party-goers when the defendant stabbed him in the neck unprovoked.

This attack occurred within a few hours of Cardoza smashing a champagne bottle on another victim at another party in a case that was prosecuted separately.

The cases were investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.